

## Prescriptive Authority Success in New Mexico

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There are now seven prescribing, medical psychologists in New Mexico. About ten others are very close to completing all requirements. Here are some of the major ways in which the prescribing, medical psychologists are meeting the needs of New Mexico citizens:

1. These psychologists have averaged over 2000 prescriptions with no significant untoward effects
2. These psychologists have reduced medication for a number of patients by identifying more appropriate medications, and by implementing behavioral and psychotherapeutic techniques
3. Several of the prescribing, medical psychologists work with children, and a primary accomplishment has been to un prescribe multiple medications given to children and to utilize less intrusive means of assisting them
4. These prescribing, medical psychologists report success in diminishing the use of many pain medications by chronic pain patients
5. Because of their advanced training in pathophysiology, each of these prescribing, medical psychologists can document cases in which they have helped primary care physicians to diagnose underlying medical conditions that presented as psychological symptoms
6. These prescribing, medical psychologists are located in rural areas throughout New Mexico. One is working in a health clinic in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. One is working in Roswell, New Mexico. Several are serving Medicaid and elderly patients in Las Cruces, New Mexico. One works with Medicaid patients from Bernalillo and surrounding areas, New Mexico
7. These prescribing, medical psychologists are interfacing with physicians in primary care in a number of critical ways. One of the prescribing, medical psychologists is working as the Medical Behavioral specialist at a Family Practice Residency Training Program. Another is working along side of a psychiatrist at a rural health clinic providing psychotropic evaluation and treatment to a seriously emotionally disturbed population
8. The Prescribing Psychologists' Act has been effective in encouraging other psychologists to move to New Mexico. Presently, two of the seven prescribing, medical psychologists

completed their training outside of New Mexico and are moving to New Mexico in order to practice from this biopsychosocial model of care

9. Even as part of the training, these psychologists are extending care to needed populations. The psychologists-in-training in psychopharmacology are completing their internship experiences in the community health centers of northern New Mexico. They are providing critically needed psychological services while obtaining experience and knowledge. As part of their clinical training in psychopharmacology, other psychologists are providing pro bono care in school-based clinics, shelters for battered women, and residential treatment homes for the elderly.

With over 50 psychologists who have completed academic training in psychopharmacology in New Mexico, and other trained prescribing psychologists moving to New Mexico, the Prescribing Psychologists' Act is offering a safe and effective way to provide more available care to the many underserved citizens of the State.